

Testimony Concerning SB 253
Susan DeBili

I would like to thank the Environmental Committee for the opportunity to express my support of SB253, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Animal Importation Statutes

I am a registered voter in Milford, and I am a foster for Big Fluffy Dog Rescue.

Our family has adopted 4 rescue dogs and fostered many more... It is an experience that has brought our family together in so many ways and with teenagers, that is always a plus...our children are always proud that they have helped another dog to have a happy beginning with a new family.

I strongly believe that all pets should be seen by a vet on a regular basis, should be vaccinated when necessary, and every effort to keep them healthy and comfortable should be made. We have had the same vet for 30 years and a good relationship with them. However, the new requirements are very difficult to meet, the 48-hour turnaround, especially with weekend transports arriving, and sometimes a lot to ask of a foster who may have to work on Monday morning, to once again move this sometimes scared and confused animal into another vehicle to be poked and prodded some more, when they are traveling with a valid health certificate in the first place, and it adds a significant financial cost to the rescue, and ultimately to the CT citizens who are trying to adopt a dog. The costs here in Milford range from \$42 to \$70 to have these exams done, each, and some animals take longer to adopt than others, so \$70 x3 is quite significant. Also, if a foster is living on a state line or close by, and wants to see an out-of-state vet, this should be an option for them.

As a foster, and just as a person who loves animals, any animal under my care who needs to be seen by a vet, will be seen by a vet, and I am sure I speak for my fellow fosters who put so much time and their own money into this. This past summer, we had one dog in our care who developed some discharge from an eye, and rescue had me take her to the vet, and she had a scratch on her cornea, some eye drops and all was well (probably from playing, a branch hit her eye, or she just scratched it herself). Also, if I didn't feel comfortable that these dogs were as healthy as they could be coming here, vaccinated and cleared already by a vet before traveling, I would not expose my dogs, cats, and especially my family to any communicable illnesses.

I strongly urge you to support this bill, which will lessen the burden and costs to the rescue organizations and their volunteers who have been self-policing and doing the right thing for these dogs all along.

Thank you,

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